

#### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 32-94 are pending in the application. Claims 32 and 78 have been amended. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Applicant submits that the pending claims 32-94 are patentable over the art of record and allowance is respectfully requested of claims 32-94.

Claims 32 and 78 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Project Plan (hereinafter PP) Name Searching Research Project Phase 2, 6/14/1996, pages 1-18, in view of Oshika et al. ("Improved Retrieval of Foreign Names From Large Database", 1998). Applicants respectfully traverse, but, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claims 32 and 78.

Applicants would like to point out that the PP reference was prepared by Applicants while they were performing research under a government contract. Applicants believe that their activities, including preparation of the PP reference, should be classified as experimentation. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the PP reference should not be cited. However, to expedite prosecution, Applicants will address the rejections herein.

Applicants respectfully submit that the PP reference cited by the Examiner is Applicants' own work. With this Amendment, Applicants are submitting a Declaration signed by one of the Applicants', John Christian Hermansen, stating that the PP reference is Applicants' own work.

Amended claims 32 and 78 describe classifying a text input name as belonging to a particular culture by: using a high frequency name data store of names that occur frequently in particular cultures, wherein, when there is a match with a name in the high frequency name data store of names, the particular culture associated with retrieved name and a confidence score associated with the retrieved name are recorded; determining whether morphemes in a morpheme data store are present in the input name by searching for matching substrings of name segments in the input name, and wherein, for each morpheme found in the input name, the particular culture associated with the morpheme and a confidence level associated with the morpheme are recorded; searching the input name for strings of letters that occur with statistical significance in particular cultures, wherein, for each n-gram present in an associated n-gram data store, when a match is found, the culture and score associated with that n-gram are recorded, and breaking the name into segments and using information in the segments to match at least one of a title, an affix, and a qualifier of the text input name, wherein, for each segment present in the

input name that matches a particle in a data store, the culture associated with that particle and a confidence score associated with that particle are recorded (e.g., Specification, page 11, line 11 – page 12, line 11).

The Oshika reference describes HMMs that are useful for language classification that provides a means of assigning a probability distribution to words or names in a specific language (page 481, section 3.0). In particular, given an HMM, the probability that a given word would be generated by that model would be computed (page 481, section 3.0).

The Oshika reference has been cited as teaching classifying a text input name as belonging to a particular culture. Applicants respectfully submit that the Oshika reference does not teach or suggest classifying a text input name as belonging to a particular culture by: using a high frequency name data store of names that occur frequently in particular cultures, wherein, when there is a match with a name in the high frequency name data store of names, the particular culture associated with retrieved name and a confidence score associated with the retrieved name are recorded; determining whether morphemes in a morpheme data store are present in the input name by searching for matching substrings of name segments in the input name, and wherein, for each morpheme found in the input name, the particular culture associated with the morpheme and a confidence level associated with the morpheme are recorded; searching the input name for strings of letters that occur with statistical significance in particular cultures, wherein, for each n-gram present in an associated n-gram data store, when a match is found, the culture and score associated with that n-gram are recorded, and breaking the name into segments and using information in the segments to match at least one of a title, an affix, and a qualifier of the text input name, wherein, for each segment present in the input name that matches a particle in a data store, the culture associated with that particle and a confidence score associated with that particle are recorded.

Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 32 and 78 are not taught or suggested by the PP reference or the Oshika reference, either alone or in combination.

Claims 32-52, 58, 61-63, 66, 70, 76-89, and 93-94 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oshika et al. ("Improved Retrieval of Foreign Names From Large Database", 1998) in view of Project Plan (hereinafter PP) Name Searching Research Project

Phase 2, 6/14/1996, pages 1-18. Applicants respectfully traverse, but, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claims 32 and 78.

Amended claims 32 and 78 describe classifying a text input name as belonging to a particular culture by: using a high frequency name data store of names that occur frequently in particular cultures, wherein, when there is a match with a name in the high frequency name data store of names, the particular culture associated with retrieved name and a confidence score associated with the retrieved name are recorded; determining whether morphemes in a morpheme data store are present in the input name by searching for matching substrings of name segments in the input name, and wherein, for each morpheme found in the input name, the particular culture associated with the morpheme and a confidence level associated with the morpheme are recorded; searching the input name for strings of letters that occur with statistical significance in particular cultures, wherein, for each n-gram present in an associated n-gram data store, when a match is found, the culture and score associated with that n-gram are recorded, and breaking the name into segments and using information in the segments to match at least one of a title, an affix, and a qualifier of the text input name, wherein, for each segment present in the input name that matches a particle in a data store, the culture associated with that particle and a confidence score associated with that particle are recorded (e.g., Specification, page 11, line 11 – page 12, line 11).

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The Oshika reference has been cited as teaching classifying a text input name as belonging to a particular culture. Applicants respectfully submit that the Oshika reference does not teach or suggest classifying a text input name as belonging to a particular culture by: using a high frequency name data store of names that occur frequently in particular cultures, wherein, when there is a match with a name in the high frequency name data store of names, the particular culture associated with retrieved name and a confidence score associated with the retrieved name are recorded; determining whether morphemes in a morpheme data store are present in the input name by searching for matching substrings of name segments in the input name, and wherein, for each morpheme found in the input name, the particular culture associated with the morpheme

and a confidence level associated with the morpheme are recorded; searching the input name for strings of letters that occur with statistical significance in particular cultures, wherein, for each n-gram present in an associated n-gram data store, when a match is found, the culture and score associated with that n-gram are recorded, and breaking the name into segments and using information in the segments to match at least one of a title, an affix, and a qualifier of the text input name, wherein, for each segment present in the input name that matches a particle in a data store, the culture associated with that particle and a confidence score associated with that particle are recorded.

Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 32 and 78 are not taught or suggested by the PP reference or the Oshika reference, either alone or in combination.

Dependent claims 33-52, 58, 61-63, 66, 70, 76-77, 79-89, and 93-94 incorporate the language of one of independent claims 32 and 78, respectively, and add additional novel elements. Therefore, dependent claims 33-52, 58, 61-63, 66, 70, 76-77, 79-89, and 93-94 are not taught or suggested by the PP or Oshika references for at least the same reasons as were discussed with respect to claims 32 and 78.

Claims 53-54, 57, 60, 64-65, 67-69, 71-75, and 90-92 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oshika et al. ("Improved Retrieval of Foreign Names From Large Database", 1998) in view of Project Plan (hereinafter PP) Name Searching Research Project Phase 2, 6/14/1996, pages 1-18, and further in view of Hermansen ("Automatic Name Searching in Large Data Bases of International Names," 1985). Applicants respectfully traverse, but, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claims 32 and 78.

The Hermansen reference does not cure the defects in the Oshika and PP references. Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of the Oshika, PP, and Hermansen references do not teach or suggest the subject matter of amended claims 32 and 78.

Dependent claims 53-54, 57, 60, 64-65, 67-69, 71-75, and 90-92 incorporate the language of one of independent claims 32 and 78, respectively, and add additional novel elements. Therefore, dependent claims 53-54, 57, 60, 64-65, 67-69, 71-75, and 90-92 are not taught or suggested by the PP or Oshika references for at least the same reasons as were discussed with respect to claims 32 and 78.

Claims 32-94 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Final Report (Name Searching Research Project Phase 2, May 31, 1997, pages 1-67) in view of Oshika et al. ("Improved Retrieval of Foreign Names From Large Database", 1998). Applicants respectfully traverse, but, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claims 32 and 78.

Applicants would like to point out that the Final Report reference was prepared by Applicants while they were performing research under a government contract. Applicants believe that their activities, including preparation of the Final Report reference, should be classified as experimentation. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the Final Report reference should not be cited. However, to expedite prosecution, Applicants will address the rejections herein.

Amended claims 32 and 78 describe classifying a text input name as belonging to a particular culture by: using a high frequency name data store of names that occur frequently in particular cultures, wherein, when there is a match with a name in the high frequency name data store of names, the particular culture associated with retrieved name and a confidence score associated with the retrieved name are recorded; determining whether morphemes in a morpheme data store are present in the input name by searching for matching substrings of name segments in the input name, and wherein, for each morpheme found in the input name, the particular culture associated with the morpheme and a confidence level associated with the morpheme are recorded; searching the input name for strings of letters that occur with statistical significance in particular cultures, wherein, for each n-gram present in an associated n-gram data store, when a match is found, the culture and score associated with that n-gram are recorded, and breaking the name into segments and using information in the segments to match at least one of a title, an affix, and a qualifier of the text input name, wherein, for each segment present in the input name that matches a particle in a data store, the culture associated with that particle and a confidence score associated with that particle are recorded (e.g., Specification, page 11, line 11 – page 12, line 11).

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Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 32 and 78 are not taught or suggested by the Final Report reference or the Oshika reference, either alone or in combination.

Dependent claims 33-77 and 79-94 incorporate the language of one of independent claims 32 and 78, respectively, and add additional novel elements. Therefore, dependent claims 33-77 and 79-94 are not taught or suggested by the Final Report and Oshika references for at least the same reasons as were discussed with respect to claims 32 and 78.

Applicants' submit that the Final Report reference may not be used in the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection. In particular, MPEP Section 706.02(a) "Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102(a), (b), or (c); Printed Publication or Patent [R-3] - 700 Examination of Applications", "II. DETERMINING WHETHER TO APPLY 35 U.S.C. 102(a), (b), or (c)", "C. 35 U.S.C. 102(a)", states:

For 35 U.S.C. 102(a) to apply, the reference must have a publication date earlier in time than the effective filing date of the application, and must not be applicant's own work.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Final Report reference cited by the Examiner is Applicants' own work. With this Amendment, Applicants are submitting a Declaration signed by one of the Applicants', John Christian Hermansen, stating that the Final Report reference is Applicants' own work.

Also, Applicant's priority date is March 25, 1998, and the Final Report reference is dated May 31, 1997. Therefore, the Final Report reference is not available under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

**Conclusion**

Applicant has not added any claims. Nonetheless, should any additional fees be required, please charge Deposit Account No. 09-0460.

The attorney of record invites the Examiner to contact her at (310) 553-7973 if the Examiner believes such contact would advance the prosecution of the case.

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By: \_\_\_\_\_/Janaki K. Davda\_\_\_\_\_

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